

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method to provide incentives for client machines
5 to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:
 - receiving requests for information from a plurality of client machines;
 - determining if the client machines are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and
 - sending the requested information to the client machines, wherein priority is given to requests from clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of giving priority to client machines which contribute resources to peer-to-peer sharing further comprises giving higher priority in proportion to the level of 20 resources contributed.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the resources client machines may contribute to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:
 - disk space;
 - bandwidth;
 - CPU resources;
 - memory; and
 - specified number of connecting users.

4. A method for accessing information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:

contributing computer resources to peer-to-peer

5 sharing technology;

requesting information from a network server, wherein the request is given priority in proportion to the level of resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing; and

10 receiving the requested information.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;

15 bandwidth;

CPU resources;

memory; and

specified number of connecting users.

20 6. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, to provide incentives for client machines to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer network, the computer program product comprising:

25 instructions for receiving requests for information from a plurality of client machines;

instructions for determining if the client machines are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and

30 instructions for sending the requested information to the client machines, wherein priority is given to requests from clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing.

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7. The computer program product according to claim 6,
wherein the instructions for giving priority to client
machines which contribute resources to peer-to-peer
sharing further comprise instructions for giving higher
priority in proportion to the level of resources
contributed.

8. The computer program product according to claim 6,
10 wherein the resources client machines may contribute to
peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;
bandwidth;
CPU resources;
15 memory; and
specified number of connecting users.

9. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for use in a data processing system, for accessing
20 information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the
method comprising:

instructions for contributing computer resources to
peer-to-peer sharing technology;
instructions for requesting information from a
25 network server, wherein the request is given priority in
proportion to the level of resources contributed to
peer-to-peer sharing; and
instructions for receiving the requested
information.

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10. The computer program product according to claim 9,
wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing
comprise:

5 disk space;
 bandwidth;
 CPU resources;
 memory; and
 specified number of connecting users.

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11. A system to provide incentives for client machines
to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer
network, the system comprising:

15 a receiving component which receives requests for
information from a plurality of client machines;
 a processing component which determines if the
client machines are contributing resources to
peer-to-peer sharing;
 a register which maintains a queue, wherein priority
20 is given to requests from clients which are contributing
resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and
 a communications component which sends the requested
information to the client machines.

25 12. The system according to claim 11, wherein the
register which maintains the queue further comprises a
second queue for requests from clients which contribute
resources, wherein higher priority is given in proportion
to the level of resources contributed.

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13. The system according to claim 11, wherein the resources client machines may contribute to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

5 disk space;
 bandwidth;
 CPU resources;
 memory; and
 specified number of connecting users.

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14. A system for accessing information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:

a peer-to-peer sharing component which contributes computer resources to peer-to-peer sharing technology;

15 a communications component which requests information from a network server, wherein the request is given priority in proportion to the level of resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing; and
 a receiving component which receives the requested
20 information.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

25 disk space;
 bandwidth;
 CPU resources;
 memory; and
 specified number of connecting users.

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